

EDITORIALS

Optimism At Work

These are times when Americans could use a generous application of Optimism.

This week, the Torrance Optimist Club joins more than 1000 Optimist clubs in the United States, Canada, and Central and South America in observance of Optimist Week. These clubs with their 45,000 members spent more than \$750,000 last year helping boys. Optimism's motto is "Friend of the Boy."

Many present day Optimists are men who received their inspiration toward better citizenship from Optimist boys work in their youth.

The Optimist's Creed, written by Christian D. Larson, seems to be the inspiration behind Optimist's fast growing and enthusiastic development. The creed is credited with "Making Optimist tick." We are happy to share that creed with our readers:

- Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your Optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you will have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.)

Barriers Defended

Editor, Torrance Herald
Last month when I had occasion to place in your paper some information regarding a play that we were putting on in the beautiful Torrance Civic Auditorium, I happened to glance down the page and notice that there was still a foment of trouble and misunderstanding about the disconnection of roads between our two communities. I have thought about this for some time, and have studied the situation in regard to the real feelings of people living on both sides of our city boundaries. I do not live close to the area concerned, but have good friends in both sections who tell me that it is mutually satisfactory from a traffic standpoint to keep the roads disconnected. On one block of Solano, for instance, there are exactly forty children. Since the houses are fairly close together, there is a good deal of playing on the street.

of any motive. (Usually they are the ones whose own motives are open to question). The real motive here is a reduction of through traffic, particularly of heavy construction vehicles. This, of course, is not going to be popular with heavy investors in the contracting business. They would much prefer to have access.

No one likes the appearance of the necessary barriers, least of all, we, it seems to me that a friendly arrangement might be made by the city fathers on both sides of the boundary by filling them in as dedicated parkland having good-looking planting and some nice, friendly little paths so that neighbor may visit with neighbor and our children can mingle without being mingled.

Sensible, friendly people can get together on such things without letting them become political footballs. Who knows, they might even come out of it with corner playgrounds so the kiddies wouldn't have to play in the street!

ALICE JUNE LINDSAY
P. V. Housewife

LAW IN ACTION

ENFORCING RIGHTS GIVEN BY CONTRACT

Since so much of our daily business rests on contracts, the law protects contracts by seeing that each person does his part or makes up for not doing so, usually by an award of money damages.

Suppose you contract with someone who later refuses to perform his promise. Then, in most cases, you can sue him for damages.

Courts often set damages by the amount of injury, including losses which result from the injury. Example: You pay Mr. Carpenter \$50 to fix your roof while you are away. You warn him that damage will be done, if rain gets through it. When you come back, the roof has not been fixed. Rain has leaked into your closet and your \$200 wardrobe is ruined. Odds are that you can collect \$500 damages from Mr. Carpenter.

When money damages would be insufficient to make up your loss, a court may order "specific performance" of the contract. Suppose Jones contracts to sell you his corner lot and then backs out. The court can make him perform the rest of the deal—that is

compel him to transfer title to the lot to you — for you could not get exactly the same lot elsewhere, even in the same block.

In some cases courts will not enforce lawful contracts. You hire Mr. Carpenter to fix your roof. But the courts will not back you in these situations:

- Where you keep Mr. Carpenter from doing the job: You refuse to let him put up a ladder, the only reasonable way to reach the roof.
- Where it is impossible to carry out the contract. Say, your house burns down; or, in case of war, the contractor's construction materials are taken for governmental purposes and he can obtain no others.
- Where it becomes unlawful to carry out the contract, as the result of statute, regulation, or ordinance: say, the use of wooden shingles in repairing of roofs is prohibited.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

Those New Models



REYNOLDS KNIGHT

Benefits of Cut-Rate Selling Are Small, Manufacturer Says

The factor that most often throws forecasts on the U. S. economy out of line is the vast size of the pipeline of goods from factory to consumer. Inventories rise for a few months after sales decline; it takes a while to adjust them. Last February inventories reached their peak, months after a decline in business began. Since then they have been falling.

There are indications we have been buying more than is produced. This is always a condition that cures itself. But retail stocks are still substantial; when the turn will come is a vital question, because manufacture for inventory makes jobs.

Those hard-boiled judges of the trend of supply and price, members of the National Association of Purchasing Agents, cast a cautious vote that the turn-around is at hand. At October's end, 46 per cent of them reported they were increasing forward orders, only 11 per cent that they were still edging closer to a hand-to-mouth basis.

BREAK FOR CONSUMER — Benefits for the consumer were placed first by Walter A. Sheaffer II, president of the Sheaffer Pen Co., in welcoming the United States Supreme Court's recent decision upholding the validity of state fair trade laws.

Cutters of prices on branded products can make only a momentary appeal, said Mr. Sheaffer, because they sell an article stripped of the service, guarantee, delivery, credit, and

reliability which have long been the keystones of American retailing. These durable values, he said, must be preserved and with them the traditional retailing system.

"It is the manufacturer who takes a chance," said Mr. Sheaffer, "if the price he sets on his wares is above their value, his customer can always buy a different brand. What the Supreme Court has done is to uphold the manufacturer's freedom to take this risk."

Sheaffer's 1954 sales seem to prove that a national brand maker's sales won't suffer if he offers merchandise the public wants, prices it fairly, and distributes it only to retailers who observe fair trade prices.

Mr. Sheaffer said, in the last nine months Sheaffer sales have been up 16 per cent from the like period last year, and in that time an aggressive campaign has practically denied all Sheaffer merchandise to price cutters.

THINGS TO COME — Dramatized groups without stages may be fitted with portable ones by a Minnesota company. Any multiple of four feet wide is supplied. . . . A swivel seat for duck-hunters has a built-in carrier for eight boxes of shells. . . . Do-it-yourselfers can get a kit of motor and controls to open and close the garage door from any point in the driveway. . . . A poker chip rack counts out one's chips, if any, as one bets.

WHAT PRICE AUTOMATION? — Not since the early days of the Industrial Revolution

has a major change in factory operations caused as much controversy and confusion as the spread of automation control equipment. The optimist sees automation as the ope of abundance. The pessimist sees it as the devourer of jobs.

One clearheaded expert in the field—Henry Dever, president of Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company's Brown Instruments division — told a group of financial analysts that automation, from the income-account viewpoint, produced profit "almost by definition." Simply examining a plant or process for automation possibilities, he pointed out, points out the places where automation will help and where it won't. More profits from better methods, he added, are not forerunners of fewer jobs.

Top management could be faster about taking cognizance of the many places in which automation could improve product and reduce scrap, Mr. Dever said. He urged more study to make sure automation is used wherever it makes sense.

BITS O' BUSINESS — The principal non-government forecaster has moved his cotton crop estimate up to 13.1 million bales. . . . Steel output crossed the 1.8 million ton mark last week. . . . Installation credit outstanding rose to \$21.5 billion during the month of September.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

As you read this column on publication date, I will be addressing the Kansas State Teachers Association convention in Hutchinson. In the last four weeks I have addressed teachers conferences in Seattle, San Antonio, Sacramento, Wichita and 2500 members of the 40th annual convention of School Administrators of the United States and Canada at the Statler Hotel, Los Angeles. The most frequent question put to me by educators all over the United States is: Will Italy go Red?

In the elections covered in Italy last year Communism made substantial gains. A month ago things looked even darker in Italy. Today there is a ray of hope due to the settlement of the critical area of Trieste, whereby Italy gets the important Zone A and Yugoslavia keeps the less important Zone B. Whether this is sufficient to swing the pendulum, to our side only time can tell. For the time being things look better for the Free World in this showdown of Communism in Italy.

Italy Very Critical
What makes Italy so critical is the fact that it could be the first nation in the world to vote Communism to power. The Reds now hold 37% of the vote. If they win another 8%, they take control of all Italy and with it \$3 billion in U. S. military and other aid to Italy since 1946. It is not a pretty picture. It's a nightmare to our secretary of state and to President Eisenhower. Here are the facts behind the Communist gains in Italy since the end of World War II.

Italy Is Overpopulated
Italy is breaking at the seams with over 47,000,000 people. By the end of this year, with the remainder of the refugees from the old Italian colonies of Libya, Ethiopia and the Gold Coast returning home, this will reach nearly 48,000,000. Emigration to the U. S. is less than 6000 annually. Another 100,000 drift back and forth all over the European continent. There are just too many people and too little land in Italy. It was this same problem that brought Mussolini and Fascism in the early 20's. Now the Communists are agitating the masses. "Vota Communisti," they shout, "and we will divide the land and the bread in Italy."

Unemployment Is Serious
U. S. labor leaders refer to 3,000,000 unemployed in America as a "critical situation." They don't tell us that much of this "unemployment" is seasonal, especially in the automobile business. . . . and much of it is elimination of double time of the last years. Chrysler, Studebaker and General Motors have just returned to a full employment in Detroit, with double time in most auto factories at the present time. Be as it may, 3,000,000 unemployed in a country of 163,000,000 is still bad. But Italy has only 47,000,000 with over 4,000,000 unemployed and another 10,000,000 barely working 20 hours a week. The Reds in Italy blame all unemployment to the "interests," just as the radicals always do in the U. S. A man out of a job, with a wife and large family to feed and clothe, is bitter. This bitterness reflects his opposition to his government. So in Italy he votes Red as a protest, while attending mass to pray for work. I have talked to devout Christians who told me they support Communist Togliatti, not because they like Communism, but as a protest against their government for their unemployment. Of course it's ridiculous, but those are the facts of life in Italy today.

Religious and Communism in Italy

In Italy our two big guns against Communism are U. S. aid and the Catholic church. We have given Italy just over \$3 billion dollars in economic and military aid since 1946. Russia hasn't spent a nickel except for Red propaganda. . . . and it spends plenty on that. Russia spent more money in Italy (over \$80,000,000) than we have spent in the entire world (\$77,000,000) in the past year, under our USIA (United States Information Agency) and the Voice of America combined.

I have attended Communist rallies in the hotbeds of Italian Communism in Milan, Turin, Genoa, the industrial centers. I have heard Italians in the audience shout: "I'm as good a Catholic as anyone in Italy, but I've got to eat and the lamb has to eat and Maria has to eat. All I get from the parish priest is promises." I heard this over and over again in Italy. It's shameful for some Christians to act that way but they do.

The Reds criticize religion openly in Italy. They criticize the Vatican as a "tool of the capitalists." This is the diabolical conspiracy of the Kremlin in Italy. In spite of the deep religious feelings which exist in Italy, as well as France, the Reds have made inroads, not so much with the people's faith toward God, but with their faith toward the clergy, who the Reds claim allow the "interests to exploit them." That's the Red line today against the clergy in Italy.

Italy Can Be Saved
U. S. aid is raising Italian industry out of the doldrums of post-war readjustment. The settlement of Trieste will return several hundred thousand Italians to Venezia Giulia and

other areas of Trieste. Integration of Italy into NATO will take another 150,000 into the army. Economies long overdue are being implemented. Italy had 1,800,000 on the public payroll. This has been cut to 1,200,000 in one year, although it still represents salaries amounting to 48% of Italy's entire budget. The Italians are afraid of Russia, and in a showdown it is doubtful the Italian people will accept a Communist government. Perhaps the Italians are using this threat to scare the West for more aid. Things are serious indeed in Italy, but looking up.

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914

Torrance Herald

Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, California, Thursday and Monday. Entered as second class matter Jan. 20, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

1610 Gramercy Ave. FA 8-4000



KING WILLIAMS, Publisher
GLENN W. PFEIL, General Manager
REID L. BUNNY, Managing Editor

Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California, Decree No. 21470, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
Subscription Rates: By Carrier, 30c a Month. Mail Subscriptions \$3.60 per year. Circulation office FAirfax 8-4004.

IT'S A FACT

By JERRY CAHILL

DID WASHINGTON LEAD THE DEBATE DURING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

PATENT OFFICE EMPLOYEES ARE FORBIDDEN TO TAKE OUT PATENTS!

MARK TWAIN SOLD 25,000 COPIES OF A BOOK THAT CONTAINED NOTHING BUT BLANK PAGES!
(Mark Twain's Self-Portrait Scrapbook)

WORLD'S LONGEST SURVEYED STRAIGHT LINE—MONTREAL—SPRINGFIELD—PORTER, CANADA—104 MILES

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